

14 May 2019

Terms of Reference

Preparation of a project proposal to support the establishment of a Bee Sanctuary in Niue

1 BACKGROUND

1.1. Globally, honey bees are under threat from the increasing prevalence of diseases and parasites, as well as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), which has become widespread in the Northern Hemisphere. Niue hosts the last known significant and sufficiently isolated stock of Italian honey bees (*Apis mellifera ligustica*) that are free of all major bee diseases and parasites. Consequently, the bees of Niue have emerged as an increasingly important genetic asset and Niue has emerged as an ideal site for a "Bee Sanctuary". Niue is also the perfect country for such a sanctuary in terms of size, low local population, limited number of international visitors, topography, isolation and limited number of ports.

1.2. In October 2018, the STDF Working Group approved a project preparation grant (PPG) focused on supporting the establishment of a Bee Sanctuary in Niue. The PPG was requested by the Niue Honey Company Ltd (NHC)¹, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Niue (DAFF), and the Department of Economics, Planning and Trade of Niue (DEPT), which all provided accompanying letters.² DAFF is responsible for SPS and agricultural issues, and the DEPT has responsibility for trade issues. The New Zealand Government (NZG) supports the application. New Zealand has provided support to Niue to carry out disease surveys.

1.3. The PPG will be used for assessing the SPS-related requirements and feasibility to establish a "Pacific Bee Sanctuary" in Niue. The key purpose of the feasibility study would be to assess the mix of practices that can reasonably be undertaken, and SPS certifications that can reasonably be obtained, including with respect to the exporting of live bees from Niue, with the view of designating Niue as a "Pacific Bee Sanctuary". Such information would inform the decision about an application for a follow-up STDF project grant.

1.4. Establishing a Pacific Bee Sanctuary is expected to have positive impacts on protecting honeybee biodiversity and the genetic purity of the Italian honeybee, developing an alternative and sustainable source of bee imports for the Pacific islands, augmenting regional agricultural productivity, establishing a Pacific research centre to further research and development into bee health, forming an communications platform to promote bee health, supporting livelihoods in the Pacific region, and contributing to native bush regeneration, thereby mitigating the effects of global warming and soil degradation.

1.5. Niuean honey has been exported to New Zealand ever since the establishment of the industry in the 1960s. Presently, it is the only honey being imported into New Zealand, as it meets the rigorous SPS requirements of NZG. Moreover, there are now sales opportunities in the UK/EU. Niue's government, NHC and MPI are working in close cooperation to strengthen Niue's capacity to meet the SPS requirements of various markets. The honey industry in Niue currently operates at about 30% of its capacity in terms of both volume and value added. In addition, due to limited shipping alternatives, all honey from Niue must first be exported to New Zealand, where it is accompanied by all the pre-requisite health certificates issued by the Niuean government.

1.6. Further development of the bee keeping industry will require the pro-active role of the government to establish a "Bee Sanctuary" in Niue, as a platform to increase export values, support new product lines (export of healthy bee-stock), and increase attractiveness vis-à-vis international tourists. However, there is uncertainty on the steps to follow, including in terms of SPS certifications that can reasonably be obtained, to cost-effectively promote Niue as a "Bee-Sanctuary". To sum up, by supporting the Government of Niue and NHC in their endeavor to establish a Bee Sanctuary, this

¹ NHC is the only beekeeping business and one of the largest exporters in Niue.

² Additional letters of support were provided by the Niue Development Bank, University of Otago, Niue Tourism Office and the Government of New Zealand.

PPG would potentially contribute to the increase of export values from Niue, as well as to promote the Island as a custodian of an important genetic resource.

1.7. In approving this application, the STDF Working Group made a number of valuable recommendations including to: (i) clarify the scope of deliverables and revise the budget; (ii) clarify how to maximize the benefits of the "Bee Sanctuary" for local beekeepers and invest in their capacity building; (iii) assess the bee health status and local beekeeping practices in Niue and investigate the effects, if any, of the proposed sanctuary on other insect populations, given Niue's unique ecosystem; and (iv) reach out to concerned public and private sector stakeholders in Niue and the wider region, including in New Zealand, as well as possible donors and regional organizations like the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFs) to identify synergies and possible support for the resulting project.

2 OBJECTIVE OF THE PPG

2.1. The purpose of the PPG is to conduct a study to assess the SPS requirements and feasibility³ of establishing a "Pacific Bee Sanctuary" in Niue. The study would explore the practicality and certification requirements for safely exporting live bees from Niue to other Pacific countries. It would analyze amongst others if legislation is already in place in the Pacific region for the importation of live bees, bee products and bee materials. The results of the study would be used to prepare a project proposal for consideration by other donors, and possibly also the STDF.

3 ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE APPLICANT

3.1. Given its substantial efforts to promote bee health and the bee sanctuary concept as well as to produce safe honey products, NHC and DAFF will play a key role in supporting implementation of this PPG in close collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, notably the Government of Niue.

3.2. NHC, DAFF and DEPT will select a consultant or an organization (based on a short-list provided by the STDF) to carry out the feasibility study and project development work. The Consultant will be contracted by the STDF. The Consultant will work closely with the Business Advisor of the NHC and relevant staff of the DAFF.

3.3. NHC and the DAFF will provide all necessary support to enable the consultant/organization to successfully deliver on his/its Terms of Reference. This will include the following:

- a. Designate one Focal Point each for this PPG who will work in close collaboration with the consultant/organization to ensure support throughout implementation.
- b. Provide the consultant/organization with substantive inputs to carry out the feasibility study and draft and finalize the project proposal to establish a Pacific Bee Sanctuary.
- c. Ensure that all relevant stakeholders in government, international organizations, donors, landowners, potential future players in the industry and private sector, etc. are invited to participate in stakeholder workshops organized under the PPG and encouraged to provide their views and observations on the project to be developed.
- d. Review and provide feedback on draft versions of the feasibility study report including addressing the important current and future issues related to sustainability of setting up a bee sanctuary, project proposal and other documents, prior to their introduction at the stakeholder workshop and prior to the submission of the final documents to the STDF.
- e. Provide guidance and advice to ensure that the approach in the proposed project is technically sound, realistic, coherent, and complementary to other relevant activities at national and regional levels.

³ Assessment of feasibility of establishing a bee sanctuary should play close attention to sustainability aspects. Factors that could possibly affect the stock of honey in Niue in the short or long term should be identified as part of the assessment.

- f. Obtain letters of support for the resulting project proposal from key public and private sector stakeholders in the Pacific region. As appropriate, these letters should include a clear expression of support for the proposed project and demonstrate clear commitment to take actions needed to ensure the success and sustainability of the proposed project.
- g. Organize and help facilitate meetings and workshops organized during implementation of the PPG, including a stakeholder workshop to discuss the results of the feasibility study and draft project proposal. This will include preparation of the workshop agenda, distribution of invitations, preparation of logistics for the workshop and preparation and distribution of a document outlining the project concept.

4 ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSULTANT/ORGANIZATION

4.1. Under the overall supervision of the STDF Secretariat, and in close collaboration with NHC, DAFF, DEPT and other relevant stakeholders in Niue, the consultant/organization will carry out the following tasks:

- a. Collect and review relevant research and project documents as well as any relevant training materials on bee health issues in the Pacific region, which could inform the feasibility study and project development work.
- b. Lead the necessary fieldwork to achieve the above-mentioned PPG objectives.
- c. Ensure, during the fieldwork and throughout implementation, that proper consultation takes place with other ongoing/planned relevant initiatives in the SPS area. Particular attention should be paid to ongoing work led by Australia and New Zealand in this area.⁴
- d. Identify and consult key relevant institutions and stakeholders and ensure their buy-in and full engagement in the implementation of this PPG and in the resultant project proposal. This includes reaching out to stakeholders in Niue and the wider region, including New Zealand, and regional organizations like the SPC and the PIFs to identify synergies and possible support for the resultant project. This will also include aligning project proposal and its objectives with the national priorities of the Government of Niue under the Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-26 and the Niue Trade Policy Framework 2016.
- e. Consult with donors (and particularly those who have demonstrated possible interest in funding the establishment of a bee sanctuary and supporting Niue, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Organisation for Animal Health, World Vision) during the implementation of the PPG and seek their views on possible funding for the resultant project proposal. Relevant development partners should be invited to participate in the validation workshop.
- f. Prepare agendas for meetings (e.g. debriefing meetings with national and regional stakeholders, project validation workshops).
- g. Draft the feasibility study based on research, analysis, fieldwork and stakeholder consultations. Explore possible answers to the following key questions during fieldwork and consultations with key stakeholders:
 - i. What is the practicality of exporting live bees and related certification requirements for safely exporting live bees from Niue to other Pacific countries? What impact could this have on the stock of honey in Niue in both the short and long term?

⁴ Investigate synergies with relevant ongoing and past initiatives including the STDF PPG on establishing an SPS platform for the Pacific and the STDF supported project in the Solomon Islands, as well as planned support by Australia and New Zealand under the PACER Plus Agreement

- ii. What legislation is already in place in the Pacific region⁵ for the importation of live bees, bee products and related materials?
 - iii. What kind of legal arrangement/license is in place in Niue for the NHC? What are the implications of this arrangement for setting up a bee sanctuary?
 - iv. What is the bee health status in the Pacific islands (e.g. adaptation of the Italian bees to Niue's environment, existence of native bees, bee disease status for OIE-listed bee diseases in the Pacific islands, etc.)?
 - v. What kind of cage design and construction for the export of live bees would be required? What kind of links with airline and freight forwarding agents would need to be in place?
 - vi. What is the cost-benefit analysis with regard to establishing a "bee sanctuary" in Niue?
- h. Depending on the findings of the feasibility study, draft a project proposal to be submitted to the donor identified as a potential source of funding. If no donor was identified for the resulting project, the proposal should be submitted in the STDF format (available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-grants>)
 - i. Present the findings of the feasibility study and a draft project document to relevant stakeholders at a validation workshop and based on feedback received, make any further revisions necessary to improve and finalize the proposal.
 - j. Explore possible options for implementation of the resulting project based on discussion with potential implementing agencies, in consultation with DAFF and DEPT and other relevant national agencies.
 - k. Update the STDF Secretariat regularly on progress made in the implementation of the PPG and report on any challenges met.

5 DELIVERABLES

5.1. The consultant/organization shall deliver the following key outputs:

- a. a **short report** containing a description of activities undertaken for the PPG, the results achieved, and the key stakeholders who were actively involved and/or consulted;
- b. a **feasibility study** that analyses the existing beekeeping practices, challenges and capacity building needs and assesses the impacts and economic viability of the proposed project in terms of expected costs and benefits; and
- c. a **proposal** for a project based on operational feasibility, conducted under this PPG, to establish a "Bee Sanctuary" based on the cost-benefit analysis conducted and the findings of the PPG.

6 TIME FRAME

6.1. The planned starting date is 17 June 2019, with expected completion by 31 December 2019.

⁵ The bee health status of other Pacific island countries is available on the OIE's database – WAHIS (http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Wahidhome/Home).